

Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction

Who can teach Project Lead the Way (PLTW) at the middle school level?

The Project Lead the Way (PLTW) middle school Gateway to Technology® curriculum was developed as five modules each nine weeks in length. These modules are:

Design and Modeling™ (DM)
The Magic of Electrons™ (ME)
The Science of Technology™ (ST)
Automation and Robotics™ (AR)
Flight and Space™ (FS)

Several school districts have asked for guidance on which teachers are appropriately licensed to teach these PLTW modules at the middle school level. A review of the curriculum outlines of these modules was completed by the technology education, mathematics, science, and business education content consultants. Upon review, it was determined that the modules contain both technology education and science content found in some of the state model academic standards for these disciplines.

Since the license of the teacher must match the course content being taught, districts may apply these guidelines in determining appropriate staff licensure assignments:

- When a district determines that a module is aligned to Wisconsin model academic standards for technology education, a licensed Technology Education (220) teacher must teach the curriculum. In this case, the district would utilize a module as their technology education curriculum, integrate a module into their technology education curriculum, or integrate portions of the module into their technology education curriculum.
- When a district determines that a module is aligned to Wisconsin model academic standards for science, a licensed Science teacher must teach the curriculum. In this case, the district would utilize a module as their science curriculum, integrate a module into their science curriculum, or integrate portions of a module into their science curriculum. At the middle school level a licensed elementary/middle level education teacher may teach science as a discrete class. Examples of licenses that may be used in this case are a Middle Childhood-Early Adolescence (72-777) license (grades 1-8), a MC-EA Science (72-634) license, and a Broad field Science (601) license at the appropriate grade level.

Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction Resources:

Wisconsin Model Academic Standards: <http://www.dpi.wi.gov/pubsales/stndrd.html#anchor14>
Licensing codes: <http://dpi.wi.gov/tepd/licodes.html>